NEHRU BAL PUSTAKALAYA

# SHERA AND MITHU

MANORAMA JAFA

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*Illustrator*
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Mithu owned a pet dog called Shera. The name sounds big, but Shera was a small harmless little puppy. Both Shera and Mithu adored each other.

One day, when Mithu was leaving for school, Shera quietly followed him. Mithu saw him and ordered, "Go home Shera. Puppies don't attend schools!" While Mithu went to school, Shera was left alone.

Just then the fluttering of wings caught Shera's attention. He saw a flock of pigeons landing on the green grass. Already sullen, Shera barked loud and hard to chase them away. One naughty pigeon however, hid himself behind a thick bush of flowers. Shera jumped on the bush. The pigeon flew to save its life but a yellow wasp stung Shera right on his nose.

Shera felt a sharp pain. He barked, jumped and yelled! He ran hither and thither. He even rubbed his nose against a wall. The pain was unbearable.

He saw a cow. Shera thought of sharing his pain with the cow. Growling and barking he approached her. But she did not understand. She showed him her horns in warning. Scared, Shera ran away and hid himself under a chair. That was the seat of Gulabi the cat. Shera tried to rub his nose against her fur. Gulabi also jumped and ran away.

Shera then tried rubbing it against the chair. He caught sight of the postman approaching. He went near the postman to narrate his tale. But his barking scared the postman too!

Shera ran out and rubbed his nose against the bark of a tree. Still there was no relief.

Shera then went to Mithu's mother who was working in the kitchen. "Bhow-vow, bhow-vow, bhow-vow!" He tried rubbing his nose against her sari. Mithu's mother did not like it. She chased him away with a long stick.

Shera rushed out of the door again.

The pain was worse now. Shera did not know where to go, whom to tell. He tried rubbing his nose here and there. But there was no relief.

Finally, he decided to stand near the gate. He decided to not let anyone pass the gate. Neither in, nor out.

After a long wait, he saw Mithu returning from school. Overwhelmed with grief, he ran towards Mithu. "Bhow-vow, bhow-vow, bhow-vow...!" He continued to bark and bark.

Concerned, Mithu enquired, "Why are you barking Shera?" Mithu bent down to pet him on his head. He immediately noticed Shera's swollen nose. "Oh! Your nose hurts?"

Just then a yellow wasp flew past them. Shera leaped at it in anger and started barking all over again.

"I see," commented Mithu, "a wasp has stung you on the nose!" Mithu lifted Shera in his arms and took him to a water tap. He held Shera's nose under running water for a little while. Then he rubbed it with a piece of lime. And again washed it with cold water.

Shera loved it. The pain was subsiding now. Shera wagged his tail and licked Mithu's hands.

Mithu lovingly caught Shera's face in both his hands and stated, "I'm yours and you are mine. Our friendship is truly divine!"

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